



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-2

September 9, 2015

STEVE RALLS, TREASURER
COMSTOCK FOR CONGRESS
PO BOX 831
MC LEAN, VA 22101

Response Due Date

10/14/2015

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: C00554261

REFERENCE: JULY QUARTERLY REPORT (04/01/2015 - 06/30/2015)

Dear Treasurer:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report referenced above. This notice requests information essential to full public disclosure of your federal election campaign finances. **Failure to adequately respond by the response date noted above could result in an audit or enforcement action.** Additional information is needed for the following 5 item(s):

1. Schedule A of your report discloses one or more contributions from an organization(s), which is not a political committee registered with the Commission (see attached). In order for your committee to accept contributions from unregistered organizations, your committee should take steps to ensure that the contributor(s) used permissible funds to make the contribution(s) to avoid violating 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(f) and 30118 (formerly 2 U.S.C. §§ 441a(f) and 441b) or 11 CFR §102.5(b). Under 11 CFR §102.5(b), organizations which are not political committees under the Act and choose to contribute to federal committees must either: (1) establish a separate account which contains only those funds permitted under the Act, or (2) demonstrate through a reasonable accounting method that the organization has received sufficient funds subject to the limitations and prohibitions in order to make the contribution.

If any apparently prohibited contribution in question was incompletely or incorrectly disclosed, you should amend your original report with clarifying information. In addition, please clarify whether the contribution(s) received from the referenced organization(s) is permissible.

If you have received prohibited contributions, you must make a refund. (11 CFR § 103.3(b)(1)) The refund must be made within 30 days of the treasurer becoming aware of the illegality of the contribution. (11 CFR § 103.3(b)(2))

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If you have not already done so, please inform the Commission of your corrective action immediately in writing and provide a photocopy of any refund checks. Refunds must be reported on a Schedule B supporting Line 20(b) of the report covering the period in which the refund was made. (11 CFR § 104.8(d)(4))

Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning the acceptance of prohibited contributions, your prompt action to refund the prohibited amount will be taken into consideration.

2. Schedule A (see attached) discloses a contribution(s) from an individual(s) who has a mailing address outside of the United States of America. Please be advised that 52 U.S.C. § 30121(a) (formerly 2 U.S.C. §441e(a)) and 11 CFR §110.20 prohibit foreign nationals from making contributions in connection with any election for political office or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for any political office.

If the apparently prohibited contribution(s) in question was incompletely or incorrectly disclosed, you should amend your original report with clarifying information.

If your committee follows the safe harbor guidelines outlined under 11 CFR §110.20(a)(7) for all contributions received from a foreign address to ensure that the sources of these contributions are not foreign nationals, please provide a detailed description of your procedures. These procedures must be used in all cases where a contributor or donor uses a foreign passport or passport number for identification purposes, provides a foreign address, makes a contribution or donation by means of a check or other written instrument drawn on a foreign bank or by wire transfer from a foreign bank, or resides abroad. A committee is deemed to have conducted a reasonable inquiry into the contributor or donor's nationality if you seek and obtain copies of current and valid U.S. passport papers for U.S. citizens. No person may rely on this safe harbor if he or she has actual knowledge that the source of the funds solicited, accepted, or received is a foreign national.

If you have received a contribution from a foreign national, you must refund the impermissible contribution to the donor in accordance with 11 CFR §103.3(b). Please inform the Commission of your corrective action immediately in writing and provide a photocopy of your check for the refund. In addition, any refunds should be disclosed on Schedule B supporting Line 20(a) of the report during which the transaction was made.

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Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning the acceptance of a prohibited contribution(s), prompt action on your part to refund or provide clarifying information concerning these contributions will be taken into consideration.

3. Schedule A of your report discloses one or more contributions that appear to be from a limited liability corporation(s) (LLC) (see attached). 11 C.F.R. §110.1(g) allows the receipt of contributions from LLCs providing the LLC is treated as a partnership for tax purposes, and has not elected to be treated as a corporation by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Both LLCs that claim corporate status and those that publicly traded would be treated as corporations for FECA purposes.

Please amend your report to clarify if the LLCs in question are treated as partnerships. If any apparently prohibited contribution in question was incompletely or incorrectly disclosed, you must amend your original report with clarifying information.

If you have received prohibited contributions, you must make a refund. (11 CFR § 103.3(b)(1)) The refund must be made within 30 days of the treasurer becoming aware of the illegality of the contribution. (11 CFR § 103.3(b)(2))

If you have not already done so, please inform the Commission of your corrective action immediately in writing and provide a photocopy of any refund checks. Refunds must be reported on a Schedule B supporting Line 20(a) of the report covering the period in which the refund was made. (11 CFR § 104.8(d)(4))

Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning the acceptance of prohibited contributions, your prompt action to refund the prohibited amount will be taken into consideration.

4. Schedule A of your report discloses one or more contributions that appear to exceed the limits set forth in the Act (see attached).

An authorized or principal campaign committee may not make a contribution(s) to a candidate for federal office in excess of \$2,000 per election. The term "contribution" includes any gift, subscription, loan, advance, or deposit of money or anything of value made by any person for the purpose of influencing any election for federal office. (52 U.S.C. § 30116(a) and (f) (formerly 2

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U.S.C. § 441a(a) and (f)); 11 CFR §§ 102.12(c) and 102.13(c))

If any apparently excessive contribution in question was incompletely or incorrectly disclosed, you must amend your original report with the clarifying information. If any contribution you received exceeds the limits, you may have to refund the excessive amount.

The funds can be retained if, within 60 days of receipt, the excessive amount was properly designated for a different election by obtaining signed written authorization from the contributor(s) pursuant to 11 CFR §§ 110.1(b)(5) and 110.2(b)(5). Any request from a donor for a refund must be honored.

If the foregoing conditions for redesignations were not met within 60 days of receipt, the excessive amount must be refunded. See 11 CFR § 103.3(b)(3).

Please inform the Commission of your corrective action immediately in writing and provide a photocopy of any refund checks and/or letters redesignating the contributions in question. Refunds are reported on Line 20(a), (b), or (c), as applicable, of the Detailed Summary Page and on a supporting Schedule B of the report covering the period in which they are made. Redesignations are reported as memo entries on Schedule A of the report covering the period in which the authorization for the redesignation is received. (11 CFR § 104.8(d) (2), (3) and (4))

Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning the acceptance of excessive contributions, your prompt action to refund or redesignate the excessive amount will be taken into consideration.

5. Itemized disbursements must include a brief statement or description of why each disbursement was made. Please amend Schedule B supporting Line 17 of your report to clarify the following description: "Fundraising Commission." For further guidance regarding acceptable purposes of disbursement, please refer to 11 CFR 104.3(b)(4)(i)(A).

Additional clarification regarding inadequate purposes of disbursement published in the Federal Register is available on the FEC website at www.fec.gov/law/policy/purposeofdisbursement/inadequate_purpose_list_3507.pdf. A non-exhaustive list of acceptable purposes is also available on the FEC website at <http://www.fec.gov/rad/pacs/documents/ExamplesofAdequatePurposes.pdf>.

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Please note, you will not receive an additional notice from the Commission on this matter. Adequate responses must be received by the Commission on or before the due date noted above to be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act may also result in an enforcement action against the committee. Any response submitted by your committee will be placed on the public record and will be considered by the Commission prior to taking enforcement action. **Requests for extensions of time in which to respond will not be considered.**

Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements, designations and reports) in an electronic format and must submit an amended report in its entirety, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended.

If you should have any questions regarding this matter or wish to verify the adequacy of your response, please contact me on our toll-free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or my local number (202) 694-1138.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolina Mongeon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carolina Mongeon
Senior Campaign Finance Analyst
Reports Analysis Division

**Excessive, Prohibited, and Impermissible Contributions
Comstock for Congress (C00554261)**

Contributions from Unregistered Organizations

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Election
Friends of Shawn M Williams	5/18/15	\$500.00	P2016
Friends of Tom Rust	5/15/15	\$1,000.00	P2016

Contributions from Individuals with Foreign Addresses

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Election
Singer, Gordon M Mr.	4/7/15	\$2,700.00	P2016
Singer, Gordon M Mr.	4/7/15	\$2,700.00	G2016
Singer, Jennifer M. Mr.	4/30/15	\$2,700.00	P2016
Singer, Jennifer M. Mr.	4/30/15	\$2,700.00	G2016

Contributions from Possible Prohibited Entities

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Election
Easterns Automotive Group	5/28/15	\$2,700.00	P2016

Excessive Contributions from Authorized Committees of Other Federal Candidates

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Election
Scalise for Congress	3/27/15	\$2,000.00	P2016
Scalise for Congress	5/28/15	\$2,000.00	P2016